(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The growth of Gross Domestic Product during the current year 1999-2000 is estimated at 5.9 per cent.

(b) The yearly targets of Gross Domestic Product are not fixed. However, the targets are fixed as an average of the Five Year Plan period. The Ninth Five Year Plan has set the target of GDP growth as 6.5% per year as an average of the five year period, 1997—2002.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Problems in spending MPLADS fund due to applicability of code of conduct

†892. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to enforcement of code of conduct during the elections of Lok Sabha, State Assembly and autonomous institutes being conducted by the Centre and State Governments, problem is faced in spending the amount under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and whether any proposal is being considered by Government for resolving the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, particularly, in case of such Members of Parliament whose term is going to be completed in the current year itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Model Code of Conduct is applicable from the announcement of elections till the completion of election. Under the Model Code, no new schemes can be launched and funds cannot be released for their execution. There is no bar to release of funds for the ongoing schemes.

As all election related matters are the concern of the Election Commission of India, they are the appropriate authority to make any changes in such matters.

Statistics on inequalities of Income

893. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has statistics relating to inequalities of income;

(b) if so, the gap between haves and have nots since 1991; and

(c) whether the gap has widened since the inception of structural reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Statistics relating to inequality in income are not collected. However, data on consumption expenditure are available, which can be used to assess inequalities. The standard method of measurement of inequality is the Lorenz Ratio. This ratio ranges between zero and unity. A high value of the Lorenz Ratio is indicative of greater inequality. From the National Sample Survey data on Consumer Expenditure the